



– For I know that –

*my Redeemer Lives*

Job 19:25

Easter 2021,

Dear Friends of St. Cecilia & St. Mary Parish Community,

In his letter to the faithful of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone wrote: “The year 2020 was a year like no other. Whether it was the shelter-in-place mandate, the virus itself, or the economic shutdown, all of us have been affected...”

However, we are a people who walk by faith, not by sight. That means: even though we have to face ups and downs in our world, we are encouraged to live our lives governed by our belief in God’s promises, as opposed to how things appear in this world. In the face of coronavirus, we faithfully follow Jesus on the way of the cross. We don’t let this pandemic keep us away from our faith in God.

We have been journeying with Jesus, and with one another, through this Lenten season. We pray to deepen our relationship with the Lord. We fast to share in the suffering of Christ. We do the work of charity to comfort Jesus in the face of the poor.

Lent is the time for us to commemorate the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. But now we are approaching the greatest event of our faith – the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Let us rejoice and be glad! “The resurrected Christ is centrality of our faith, reason for our hope, and dynamic of our charity” (*Pope Benedict XVI*).

As we learn from the first Jerusalem Christians, the Resurrection of Jesus gave them a new hope that brought them closer to one another in the community of faith. The Risen Lord inspired them to give their possessions gladly for distribution to those in need.

We are Resurrected people, too, brother and sisters. How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ affect our lives as Christians? How do we live our lives that can tell others what we believe?

Let us bring the Good News to share with others through our work of charity. We are called to be salt for the earth and light of the world. Let our light shine before all, that they may see the good work we do and may come to believe in our God.

May our faith in the Risen Lord inspire us giving gladly to help the poor, and giving voluntarily to serve the community!

HAPPY EASTER TO YOU AND FAMILIES!

Fr. Ngoan Van Phan

#### HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE:

- **Palm Sunday, 3/28** ... Mass schedule is as usual: 9:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia, 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary's. We are unable to organize the Palm Sunday Brunch at the Druids this time yet.
- **Holy Thursday: 4/1** ... no morning Mass, but we begin the Sacred Paschal Triduum with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:15 p.m. at St. Cecilia – commemorating the day Jesus instituted the eucharist, and with the washing of the feet... The Eucharistic Adoration will continue right after the Mass until 11 p.m. when we close the church... Everybody is welcome to join the Adoration.
- **Good Friday: 4/2** ... The Good Friday Liturgy starts at 3 p.m. at St. Mary. We want to honor the TRADITION by starting the Good Friday Liturgy at 3 pm (the hour Jesus died). The Good Friday Liturgy includes 3 parts: Veneration of the Cross, Liturgy of the Words, and Receiving of the Holy Communion. After this service, we continue with walking the Stations of the Cross... and private prayers...
- **Easter Vigil: 4/3** ... Mass starts at 7:15 p.m. at St. Cecilia.
- **Easter Sunday: 4/4** ... Mass schedule is as usual: 9:30 a.m. at St. Cecilia, 11:15 a.m. at St. Mary.